

Application No. 10/800,537  
Amendment dated December 6, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2005

Docket No.: 209593-81554

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A fluid connector, comprising:  
a fluid conveying member that includes an interior fluid passageway, and  
a fitting that includes a first fluid duct and a second fluid duct [in communication with]  
separated from the first fluid duct by a wall, the fluid conveying member sized for receipt in  
the first fluid duct and including an opening defined by a bushing that secures the fitting to the  
fluid conveying member and provides the interior fluid passageway of the fluid conveying  
member in communication with the second fluid duct, the bushing comprising cooperatively  
deformed portions of the fluid conveying member and the fitting wall.

6. (Original) The fluid connector of claim 5, wherein the bushing is a thermal  
formed bushing.

7. (Original) The fluid connector of claim 5, wherein the bushing is a leak resistant  
joint.

8. (Currently Amended) The fluid connector of claim 5, wherein the bushing  
includes material from the fitting and the fluid conveying member that is welded together.

9. (Original) The fluid connector of claim 5, wherein the fitting includes at least  
one annular sealing member positioned between the fitting and the fluid conveying member  
both upstream and downstream of the second fluid duct.

10-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) The fluid connector of claim 5, wherein the bushing includes a first  
deformed portion of the fitting wall that extends into a hole in the fluid conveying member  
defined by a second deformed portion of the fluid conveying member.

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30. (New) The fluid connector of claim 29, wherein the first and second deformed portions are welded together.

31. (New) A fluid connector, comprising:  
a fluid conveying member comprising a first material and including an interior fluid passageway, and  
a fitting comprising a second material and including a first fluid duct and a second fluid duct in communication with the first fluid duct, the fluid conveying member sized for receipt in the first fluid duct and including an opening defined by a bushing that secures the fitting to the fluid conveying member and provides the interior fluid passageway of the fluid conveying member in communication with the second fluid duct, wherein the first material is welded to the second material at the bushing.

32. (New) The fluid connector of claim 31, wherein the first material is substantially similar to the second material.

33. (New) The fluid connector of claim 31, wherein the bushing comprises cooperatively deformed portions of the fluid conveying member and the fitting.

34. (New) The fluid connector of claim 31, wherein the bushing includes a first deformed portion of the fitting that extends into a hole in the fluid conveying member defined by a second deformed portion of the fluid conveying member.

35. (New) The fluid connector of claim 31, wherein the fitting includes at least one annular sealing member positioned between the fitting and the fluid conveying member both upstream and downstream of the second fluid duct.

36. (New) A fluid connector, comprising:  
a fluid conveying member that includes an interior fluid passageway, and  
a fitting that includes a first fluid duct and a second fluid duct in communication with the first fluid duct, the fluid conveying member sized for receipt in the first fluid duct and

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including an opening defined by a bushing that secures the fitting to the fluid conveying member and provides the interior fluid passageway of the fluid conveying member in communication with the second fluid duct, the bushing including an upwardly deformed portion of the fluid conveying member that extends into the second duct and a downwardly deformed portion of the fluid conveying member that extends into the interior fluid passageway.

37. (New) The fluid connector of claim 36, wherein the fitting is welded to the fluid conveying member at the bushing.

38. (New) The fluid connector of claim 36, wherein the fitting includes at least one annular sealing member positioned between the fitting and the fluid conveying member both upstream and downstream of the second fluid duct.